THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

VOLUME VII. NO. 17. BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1889. PRICE FIVE CENTS

The Bloomfield Citizen.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL
OF
Local News and Home Reading
ISSUED BY THE
Bloomfield Publishing Company,
AT
BLOOMFIELD, ESSEX COUNTY, N. J.

Entered at the Post Office at Bloomfield as Second Class Matter.

Office on Broad St., near the Post Office.

TERMS: { One copy 1 year.....$2 00 / One copy 6 months.....1.00 / One copy 3 months.....50

Subscriptions payable in advance.

S. MORRIS HULIN, Publisher.

A New Temperance Movement

(From The Commercial Advertiser)

For some time past the public has been reading with interest the accounts of what the constitution builders were doing toward preparing for statehood certain of our territories. But, although it may attract very little attention, the announcement just made to the effect that the acreage given to hops this year in Washington territory is one third greater, and the crop far larger than in 1888, will seem of great importance to those who believe that the productions of a country are as potent in shaping its destinies as the clauses of its inorganic law.

This news from Washington territory, foreshadowing a great industry on that wonderful Pacific slope, so fruitful already in marvels, comes upon us at a time when the people of many of our States are deeply interested in the question what men shall drink and what they shall not drink, or whether they shall drink at all. And if the prohibition candidate at the last presidential election was snowed under so deep that the average man has forgotten his very name, yet the prohibitionists bravely stand by their guns, and assure us that they are not in the least discouraged. They have come to stay, they tell us; to stay with us till there shall not be a dramshop—or a dram—to be found anywhere in this redeemed land, and in that day democrats and republicans shall wonder how they ever saw anything ludicrous in a campaign song in praise of cold water.

And when we see how widespread is the agitation of questions of high license and low license and no license, of constitutional inhibition, of local option, it is very plain that the curse of intemperance, its causes and its cure, are serious if not burning questions of the hour. And just at this juncture, when there are those who believe that prohibition is likely at no distant day to engulf all other issues, there comes this intimation that Washington territory is on the way to growing into a great hop-producing State. To a prohibitionist this is doubtless as though another head had sprouted from the neck of the hydra that is writhing beneath his heel: but let us see what significance it has to such as are convinced that prohibition does not and cannot prohibit; that the laws of man can never have the least hope of victory when they grapple with the laws of nature.

It is known to every one, even the most rabid prohibitionist would admit it we suppose, that wherever mild forms of stimulants such as beer and wine are articles of daily consumption with the masses, intemperance is at a minimum. But for obvious reasons such beverages can come into general use only in countries where they are produced. Where they are not, some native to the soil, their place is supplied by ardent spirits. And wherever distilled liquors substitute these mild beverages there drunkenness becomes a serious and wide spread evil. And just in proportion as beer or wine expel their more fiery rivals does intemperance diminish. The diminution of drunkenness brought about by the introduction of lager beer into this country has been most marked, and we owe the Germans a debt of gratitude for teaching us to substitute this mild tipple for our indigenous whiskeys and rums. It is said, indeed, that the adulterations of our beer are making it yearly less and less wholesome, but this is another cause for the congratulation that our country is likely soon to grow hops in such abundance that we shall have more and purer beer, by which our people will be more and more thoroughly weaned from the death dealing products of the still. And from that same Pacific coast comes that other tried friend of genuine, natural temperance, wine. So abundant is the grape crop this year that the wine growers of California hardly hope to be able to find a market for the entire product of their presses. Not that there has been over production. The trouble is that the masses have not yet been educated ont of the use of ardent spirits and taught the use of wine. But the work is going forward surely, if slowly; and the vineyards of California and the hopfields of Washington are destined to do more for the cause of temperance in one generation than prohibition could accomplish to the end of time.

SUMMER CORRESPONDENCE.

WATCH HILL, R. I., Aug. 20, '89.

A correspondent to the New York Sun writes that "bluefish are actually begging to be caught in these waters. The scribe may have struck "a school" somewhere, but as far as my experience goes, it is the people who are doing the begging. We have seen a few bluefish hereabouts, and there are signs of more coming, but just now fish of all kinds are shy, and fishermen shyer. The ocean is so rough and choppy that it is hard work to get out, and not all the growls of the boarders on "The Hill" can induce a native to take any risks in the endeavor to tickle the city palate. Our fisherman at Noyes Beach, six miles to the eastward of this point, is as placid as the undisturbed fish in the sea, when the cottagers congregate about him and beg him to embark on the briny and produce something for their dinners. "I ain't no objection," he says, "to any fool's startin' out of this 'ere beach and ketchin' all the fish there is in the oshin, but when I take my boat over them breakers, it'll be when I kin read my title clear to dry land agin. I ain't got no business out there in such a surf as this unless somebody's a drowning. My life may not be as much account to you as your stomachs, but it is a darn sight more account to me." This always settles it.

I suppose somebody knows why these queer "rainbow bladders"—that's my name for them—which now cover the water and are tossed up in such quantities upon the beach, are called "Portuguese Men of War." It may be because they resemble those peculiar specimens of naval architecture. They are certainly very beautiful and very wonderful creations. They are transparent and of all sizes, and show every color of the rainbow. One of these creatures, a very large one—perhaps eighteen inches in diameter—had a rudder 35 feet long. A young lady, who felt like experimenting, planted her foot firmly and quickly on the centre of the bladder, and the explosion that followed was almost like that of a gun. The experimenter jumped a rod, to the great delight of her audience. But let no one attempt to handle these things. Their stings are very painful and in one instance that I heard of, was deadly.

The hotels at "The Hill" are not all filled. However, the season is accounted a fair one by the majority of the proprietors. There is no more beautiful view in the world than that which can be seen any pleasant day from the piazza of the Ocean House. Across the bay is the quaint, historic and lovely old town of Stonington. The houses are mostly white, and the tender haze which usually envelopes them, gives the scene a fairy like appearance impossible to describe. The blue water in front, the blue sky above with its fleecy clouds, and the great tossing, everchanging ocean at the left, make a picture of beauty impossible to describe. "There should be no care in this place," I told myself, as I leaned back in one of the comfortable rockers, and surveyed the heavenly scene. But even as I spoke, care was by my side. "I shall go back to-night," I heard a young man remark to a very pretty girl who sat by one of the parlor windows. "Oh, well," was the hard response, "if you want to be a fool, it is your own look-out. "I don't want to be *fooled*, and that's the reason I am going," was the sad response. At this point, an elderly couple passed me. "He has brought disgrace enough upon us," said the man in low troubled tones, which the wind blew straight into my ears. Yes, but he is our son" you know," the wife replied, and they moved out of hearing with their heartache and care. In the midst of all this outward loveliness, I could have wept bitterly. "But he is our son, you know," touched the depths of my soul. What comfort could nature, art, wealth or health bring to this father and mother under such circumstances? The death of our loved ones is hard to bear, and it is agony to see them suffer, but there can be no pain so sharp as that which comes to the loving faithful parent's heart when a child goes wrong. "How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is," I quoted softly to myself, and then with an other wistful look at Stonington, which someway seemed shorn of half its glory, I went down to the beach to see some new "Portuguese Men of War" that the breakers had tossed upon the shore. It was a pleasure to think that these creatures had no sons to turn day into night, and sunshine into clouds. But who knows? Their families may be exceedingly troublesome. Did it ever occur to my readers how little we know of these things?

To the gentlemen who read my letters, and to the wives of the men who do not, I would like to say that flannel shirts are not only fashionable for seashore and mountain wear, but these garments are now all the rage for city use. They are certainly more economical, beside looking quite as well. At home a man can wear a gauze flannel shirt next to his skin—but let it be flannel—and a handsome flannel shirt over that. White collars and cuffs are entirely abandoned by the man about town who knows what is what. The customs of the men at "The Hill" are very picturesque. There seems to be no end to the variety in flannel suits. The red and black stripe, with "Tam" to match, is however too suggestive of Mephistophiles. But these suits are much worn, especially by men with dark complexions.

The most popular woman at Watch Hill this season is the woman who isn't there. I allude to Miss M. G. Anderson, the Metropolitan Guide and Shopper, of 305 Lexington avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y. Her work for women in finding an absolutely pure preparation for the skin, something that can be freely and effectively used in the prevention and elimination of wrinkles, tan, pimples, etc., and something safe and efficacious for the scalp and hair, has endeared her to the hearts of her sex, who must have these toilet articles. The ladies who employed Miss Anderson to do this work have known her for a long time as an honest, enterprising, untiring, impossible to humbug woman, and they give her all the credit she deserves for pluck and perseverance in this matter. One lady told me that she had used arsenic as a lotion and internal medicine for pimples until she became as white as death and almost too weak to walk. This was done at the advice of a distinguished physician. It is impossible to exaggerate the miscbief that has resulted from the use of poisonous cosmetics, and I entreat those who have common sense not to use anything that they do not know to be pure. ELEANOR KIRK.

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Probably no one thing has caused such a general revival of trade at GEORGE M. WOOD'S Drug Store as their giving away to their customers of so many free trial bottles of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. Their trade is simply enormous in this very valuable article from the fact that it always cures and never disappoints. Coughs, Colds, Asthma, Bronchitis, Croup, and all throat and lung diseases quickly cured. You can test it before buying by getting a trial bottle free, large size $1. Every bottle warranted.

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